

BOTANICAL EXPLORATION IN CAR NICOBAR AND NANCOURY ISLANDS

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ABSTRACT

The vegetation of Car Nicobar and Nancoury Islands are discussed. Car Nicobar is a flat island with an area of 126.8 square kilometres, while Nancoury is still a smaller island with hills and ridges. Evergreen forests and tidal mangrove forests are absent in Car Nicobar Island and the vegetation consists of beach forest, scrub jungle, low forest in the interior, and grass land. Unlike Car Nicobar, Nancoury Island has dense forest growth of the evergreen type. Plants growing near the shores constitute the beach forest here, while the tropical ever green forest is situated in the interior at a higher elevation. Plants of economic and medicinal importance are also described.

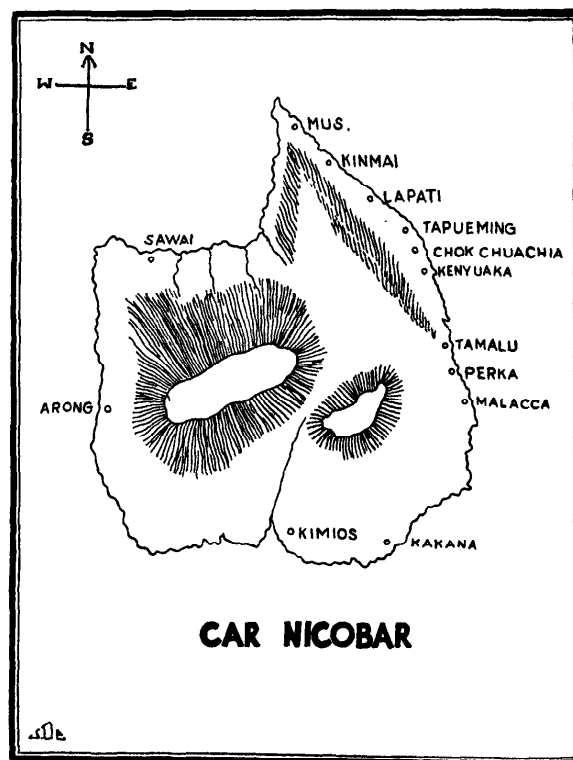
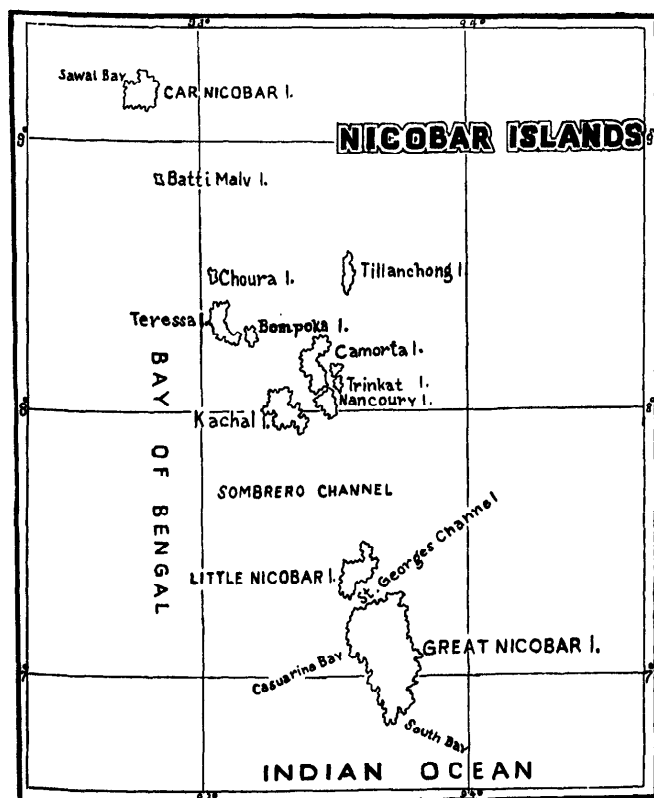
INTRODUCTION

The Andamans and Nicobars are two groups of islands, lying in the Bay of Bengal. The Nicobar group is composed of 22 islands with a total land area of 1605 square kilometres. These islands form a link in the chain of islands that stretch up from Sumatra to the Arakan Yomah and they are in all probability the remnants of a mountain range that connected Sumatra with the Arakan. Car Nicobar Island lies 185 miles south of Port Blair, between the latitudes of $9^{\circ}00'$ $9^{\circ}30'$ North and the longitudes of $92^{\circ}30'$ and $92^{\circ}50'$ East, while Nancoury Island is situated still further south between the latitudes of $7^{\circ}50'$ and $8^{\circ}10'$ North and the longitudes of

$93^{\circ}30'$ and $93^{\circ}40'$ East. Car Nicobar is a flat island with an area of approximately 126.8 square kilometres. Nancoury is a smaller island with hills and ridges. The ten degree channel that separates the Nicobar group of islands from that of Andaman, greatly accounts for the change in the floristic composition of the Nicobar Islands.

GEOLOGY, SOIL, CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

Geologically these islands are characterised by the presence of alluvial deposits and plutonic rocks. Polycistine



clay covers the greater part of these islands. According to H. Rink of the Danish expedition, the Nicobar Islands belong to the tertiary age. The climate is unhealthy. The islands are exposed to both the monsoons and smooth weather prevails from February to April and also in October. Rain falls throughout the year, generally in sharp, heavy showers. The annual rain fall varies from 228.6 to 342.9 centimetres and the shade temperature from 17.8° to 33.3°C.

VEGETATION

Car Nicobar : The vegetation of Car Nicobar island differs from other Nicobar Islands in two respects. The land being more or less flat, and the soil consisting of sandy alluvium with rocks beneath, evergreen forests are remarkably absent. Tidal forests dominated by mangroves, which are a common feature in Andamans and southern group of Nicobar Islands are also absent. In general the vegetation can broadly be classified into 1. The beach vegetation, 2. The inland vegetation consisting of scrub jungle and low forests, 3. Grass lands and 4. The marine vegetation. Major portion of the land area is occupied by coconut and areca-nut palms, which grow more or less self-sown and are the principal source of income to the natives of the island.

Beach vegetation : In the sandy beach found all along the coast of the island, the foreground is marked by plants like *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, a trailing plant with pinkish violet flowers, *Phyla nodiflora* and *Acalypha indica*. Immediately behind these plants are found a number of littoral shrubs. *Scaevola frutescens* with its characteristic bright green foliage is the most dominant vegetation here. Populations of *Scaevola frutescens* appear as a green hedge fringing the coast. Associated with it, are other shrubby plants like *Desmodium umbellatum*, *Clerodendrum viscosum*, *Premna serratifolia*. In Mus-jetty where there is a sudden elevation after the sandy beach, plants like *Ixora brunnescens*, *Gelonium bifarium*, *Glochidion calocarpum* grow very well. *Oldenlandia paniculata* and *Chrysopogon aciculatus* are the herbaceous plants growing under the shade of these plants. The shrubby layer is followed by trees such as *Barringtonia asiatica*, *Terminalia catappa*, *Ficus rumphii*, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, *Hernandia peltata*, *Syzygium samarangense* and *Pandanus tectorius*. *P. tectorius* grows to a height of 10-13 metres supported by large stilt roots and is one of the dominant plants. *Barringtonia asiatica* has been observed continuously along the coast from Malacca to Kimios, with its branches heavily laden with the beautiful epiphytic fern *Asplenium nidus*. *Cycas rumphii* grows occasionally here.

Inland vegetation : The inland vegetation is mainly composed of coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) and areca-nut (*Areca catechu*) palms which grow luxuriantly more or less self-sown. The great abundance of coconut palms in this island is due to the fact, that the island being in a rising condition, offer large expanses of calcareous

sandy beaches which are quite favourable for coconut palms. The soil is sandy with plenty of humus formed by dead and decaying vegetable matter. Patches of shrubs are found here and there, which attain a uniform height. Plants like *Clerodendrum viscosum* with its red and white flowers, *Ardisia solanacea*, *Scolopia spinosa*, *Callicarpa longifolia*, *Antidesma diandrum*, *Loranthus globosus* var. *andamanicus*, *Glycosmis pentaphylla* var. *insularis*, *Alchornea javensis*, *Tabernaemontana crispa* and *Casearia glomerata* constitute these shrubby patches. *Alchornea javensis* grows in large populations. *Eupatorium odoratum* is another shrub that is spreading rapidly in this zone. *Nephrolepis exaltata* a spreading fern, flourishes well under the shade of these shrubby plants. Occasionally trees like *Pterocymbium tinctorium*, *Aphania montana* were noticed growing amidst these shrubs.

A certain amount of forest growth was observed in Lapati-jungle where the land is elevated. The forest is predominated by shrubs and shrubby trees with *Pandanus tectorius* and *Calamus longisetus* as the dominant species. Few trees like *Pterocymbium tinctorium* and *Cupania jackiana* are not uncommon here. Principal shrubs constituting the forest growth are *Securinega virosa*, *Scolopia spinosa*, *Callicarpa longifolia* and *Casearia glomerata*. Mixed with these shrubs are small trees like *Miliusa* sp., and *Planchonia* sp. etc. The forest floor is devoid of herbaceous undergrowth. Epiphytic orchids are *Aerides radicosum* with its conspicuous pink flowered spike and *Dendrobium anceps* with its yellowish white flowers. *Lygodium flexuosum* is a common climbing fern in the forest. *Piper betle* is found spreading on the ground as well as climbing over other plants. The vegetation towards the west of airstrip is of the same character but devoid of tree growth, and is not so thick as in Lapati-jungle. *Glochidion calocarpum*, *Melochia umbellata*, *Desmodium umbellatum* and *Leea indica* are the most common shrubs here. Small trees like *Ficus hispida*, *Bridelia tomentosa* and *Grewia laevigata* grow among these shrubs. A few climbers such as *Abrus precatorius* and *Derris trifoliata* were also observed. *Phymatodes scolopendria* is a shrubby fern growing under the shade of other plants, with the rhizome creeping in the forest floor and at times climbing on tree trunks. This fern flourishes well at places where the soil is covered with litre and humus. *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* and *Timonius jambosella* are the important mangrove plants growing in the marshy swamp, where the sea-water has gone interior forming small creeks near Kimios.

An interesting feature is the association of epiphytic ferns, found growing together on the branches of small trees in Mus jungle. *Vittaria elongata* is one such fern with its characteristically long, slender, ribbon like fronds hanging downwards. The creeping rhizome is clothed with brown scales. Associated with it are *Asplenium nidus* with its spreading fronds, *Pyrrosia longifolia* and *Phymatodes scolopendria* with its deeply lobed fronds. These ferns with their creeping rhizome and roots form a thick mattress on the branches of trees.

Grass-land and open vegetation : Grass-lands occur in patches wherever the land is open and free from coconut palms. Such grass-lands were observed in Mus, Chota-Lapati, way to Arong, and between Malacca and Kakana. The most important and dominant grass that grows abundantly in these areas is *Imperata cylindrica* which is popularly known as 'Lalang' among the natives. It grows to a height of 5-6 feet and the leaves are used by the natives for thatching their huts. Associated with this are *Chloris inflata*, *Chrysopogon aciculatus*, *Scleria cochinchinensis*, etc. Twiners like *Dregea volubilis*, *Tylophora indica*, *Pericampylus glaucus* and tendril climbers like *Cayratia carnosa* were also observed, growing on small shrubs. Intermingled with these grasses are other herbaceous plants such as *Stachytarpheta indica*, *Physalis minima*, *Euphorbia hirta*, *E. thymifolia*, *Oldenlandia umbellata* and *Aerva lanata*. Shrubs and trees are rare in this area except *Ixora brunnescens*, *Clerodendrum viscosum* and *Hyptis suaveolens* which are present occasionally.

Marine vegetation : The sandy beach is fringed all round with coral reefs and so a number of marine algae grow luxuriantly in tidal zones. The coral reefs are periodically inundated by high tides. Members of the Chlorophyceae commonly occurring in these waters are *Enteromorpha*, *Ulva*, *Codium*, *Halimeda*, *Caulerpa*, *Dictyosphaeria*, *Acetabularia* and *Borgesenia*. Phaeophyceae is represented by *Padina*, *Turbinaria* and *Sargassum*. *Liagora*, *Jania*, *Ceramium* and *Gracilaria* constitute the Rhodophyceae. Most of them remain attached to the coral reefs and at times washed ashore by high tides. Of these, *Enteromorpha*, *Halimeda*, *Padina* and *Turbinaria* occur most abundantly in these waters.

Nancoury : Unlike Car Nicobar, the vegetation of Nancoury Island has dense forest growth of the evergreen type. Plants growing near the shore constitute the beach forest and the tropical evergreen forest is situated in the interior at a higher elevation. Patches of grass land occur in the tropical forest. Mangroves such as *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Excoecaria agallocha* are found fringing the coast in swampy areas. The plants growing in the beach forest are mostly shrubby trees with a few trees and shrubs. Herbs are markedly absent except a few grasses. Important plants that make up the forest growth here are species of *Planchonella obovata*, *Cupania adenophylla*, *Gomphandra andamanica*, *Erycibe paniculata*, *Claoxylon molle* and *Lannea coromandelica*, etc. Tree fern *Alsophila albosetacea* is of common occurrence on the sides of small rivulets. *Dischidia benghalensis* grows epiphytically with hanging branches in this forest.

The tropical ever green forest in the interior is composed mainly of trees, with the shrubby vegetation little developed. The tree layer attains a height of 50-60 ft. and is immediately followed by another layer of small trees and shrubs. Prominent plants in this zone are *Pterocymbium tinctorium*, *Ternstroemia macrocarpa*, *Ficus indica*, *Aphania montana* and *Calophyllum soulattri*, *Maesa ramentacea*, *Barringtonia racemosa* and

Bridelia tomentosa are the small trees here. Climbers are fairly well represented in this forest and important among them are *Dinorchloa andamanica*, *Dioscorea glabra*, *Anodendron paniculatum* and *Erycibe paniculata*. Epiphytic orchid *Luisia teretifolia* is found perching upon the branches of small trees. The most interesting feature observed in patches of grass land is the association of *Dicranopteris linearis* and *Lycopodium cernuum*. The soil here is sandy and clayey with humus. *Lycopodium cernuum* grows spreading on *Dicranopteris linearis*. *Chloris inflata*, *Eragrostis zeylanica* and *Heteropogon contortus* are the important grasses in these patches. Shrubs which grow in these grass lands are *Helicteres angustifolia* var. *obtusata* and *Trema amboinensis*.

Plants of economic and medicinal importance : Coconut and areca-nut palms are the principal commercial crops in Car Nicobar. Car Nicobar coconuts are famous for their flavour and size. It also forms one of the staple food for the Nicobarese. The fruits of *Pandanus*, which grows quite in large numbers on the coasts form another staple food to the natives. The orange coloured red pulp surrounding the individual fruit has a good flavour and is safe to eat. *Colacasia* sp., with their large underground rhizome rich in starch, are cooked and eaten by the Nicobarese. Banana (*Musa sapientum*) and bread fruit tree (*Artocarpus incisa*) are being cultivated in every village to supplement the daily food of the Nicobarese. The leaves of 'Lalang grass' (*Imperata cylindrica*) are used by the natives for thatching their huts. The seeds of *Calophyllum inophyllum* yield an oil which can be used for making soaps and also for burning lamps. The following are the details of medicinally important plants with their respective uses. *Premna serratifolia* L.: decoction of the root is used in stomach-ache and liver complaints, while the decoction of the plant is used in rheumatism and neuralgia. *Pericampylus glaucus* (Lam.) Merr.: root of the plant is an antidote to snake poison. *Ophiorrhiza mungos* L.: root is considered to be a remedy against the bites of venomous snakes and mad dogs. *Dregea volubilis* (L.f.) Benth. ex Hook. f.: leaves are used in boils and abscesses. *Erycibe paniculata* Roxb.: bark of this plant is given as medicine in cholera. *Excoecaria agallocha* L.: juice of the plant is boiled in oil and applied to rheumatism, leprosy, and paralysis. Decoction of leaves is used in epilepsy and ulcers.

Specimens of 70 species of plants were collected in these islands with many duplicates of each. Plants which are mentioned in the vegetation account and are omitted from enumeration, have been collected in the Andaman Islands. Plants which have become new records are marked with an asterisk in the enumeration. The plants have been carefully identified with the help of authentic sheets, housed in the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta. In enumerating the plants, the system of Bentham and Hooker is followed. The species under each family are arranged in an alphabetical order. Every attempt has been made to bring the nomenclature upto date.

ENUMERATION

FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

LYCOPODIACEAE

**Lycopodium cernuum* L.

Henkot, Nancoury, not common, in strobili (2-4-59), 10 M., 9359. A terrestrial shrubby plant with the rhizome rooting at intervals and spreading on *Dicranopteris linearis*.

CYATHEACEAE

Alsophila albosetacea Bedd.

Henkot, Nancoury, common, in sori (2-4-59), 8 M., 9360. A tree fern up to 3 M.

POLYPODIACEAE

Phymatodes scolopendria (Burm.) Ching Syn. *Pleopeltis phymatodes* Moore.

Kojoernga, Car Nicobar, rare, in sori (24-3-59), 6 M., 9318. A fern with the rhizome creeping in the forest floor and at times climbing on tree trunks, under the shade of shrubby trees.

**Pyrrosia longifolia* (Burm.) Morton. Syn. *Nipholobus acrostichoides* Rich.

Mus, Car Nicobar, common and abundant, in sori (28-3-59), 8 M., 9344. An epiphytic fern creeping on the branches of trees.

OLEANDROIDEAE

**Nephrolepis exaltata* Schott.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, not common, in sori (30-3-59), 3 M., 9349.

ADIANTACEAE

Vittaria elongata Sw.

Mus, Car Nicobar, rare, in sori (28-3-59), 8 M., 9343. An epiphytic fern hanging downwards from the branches of trees. It is found in association with *Pyrrosia longifolia*, *Asplenium nidus* and *Phymatodes scolopendria*.

DICOTYLEDONS

ANNONACEAE

†*Miliusa* sp.

Pasa Bridge, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower and fruit (26-3-59), 3 M., 9328.

MENISPERMACEAE

Pericampylus glaucus (Lam.) Merr. Syn. *P. incanus* Miers.

Chuppakara, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower (24-3-59), 6 M., 9320.

* Plants of new distribution.

† Plants under further studies.

BIXACEAE

**Scolopia spinosa* (Roxb.) Warb. Syn. *S. roxburgii* Clos.

Artican, Sawai, Car Nicobar, not common, in flower (31-3-59), 5 M., 9353. Flowers have good smell.

GUTTIFERAE

Calophyllum inophyllum L.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (23-3-59), 2 M., 9309. Flowers have fragrant smell.

STERCULIACEAE

Helicteres angustifolia L. var. *obtusata* King.

Henkot, Nancoury, common, in flower and fruit (2-4-59), 12 M., 9364. Fruit clothed with light brownish stellate hairs.

Melochia umbellata (Houtt.) Stapf Syn. *M. velutina* Bedd.

Near air-strip, Car Nicobar, common and abundant, in flower and fruit (24-3-59), 4 M., 9316. Locally Known as 'Pinju'.

RUTACEAE

**Glycosmis pentaphylla* Corr. var. *insularis* V. Narayanawami.

Pasa bridge, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower (26-3-59), 3 M., 9327. Plant parts smelling.

ICACINACEAE

Gomphandra andamanica King.

Hithuoui, Nancoury, not common, in flower (2-4-59), 3 M., 9365. Flowers have good smell.

VITACEAE

**Cayratia carnosa* Gagnep. Syn. *Vitis carnosa* Wall.

Near air-strip, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower and fruit (24-3-59), 3 M., 9314.

SAPINDACEAE

Aphania montana Blume Syn. *Sapindus montanus* Blume.

Kimios, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (27-3-59), 5 M., 9331.

Cupania adenophylla Planch. Syn. *Arytera littoralis* Blume.

Henkot Nancoury, not common, in flower (2-4-59), 2 M., 9366. A littoral tree up to 10 M.

Cupania jackiana Hiern.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower and fruit (7-3-59), 3 M., 9310, 9374. Fruit is red with one black seed inside which is covered with yellow caruncle. It is a favourite fruit for Nicobare pigeons.

ANACARDIACEAE

Lannea coromandelica (Houtt.) Merr. Syn. *Odina woderi* Roxb.

Hithuoui, Nancoury, rare, in flower (2-4-59), 3 M., 9367. A littoral tree upto 8 M., high.

LEGUMINOSAE

- Derris trifoliata* Lour. Syn. *D. ulginiosa* Benth.
Between Kakana and Kimios, Car Nicobar, not
common, in flower (27-3-59), 2 M., 9337.

RHIZOPHORACEAE

- Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* (L.) Lam.
Between Kakana and Kimios, Car Nicobar, com-
mon, in flower and fruit (27-3-59), 2 M., 9335. A
Mangrove.

COMBRETACEAE

- Terminalia catappa* L.
Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
(25-3-59), 2 M., 9321.

MYRTACEAE

- †*Planchonia* sp.
Tiltop near Sawai, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
(26-3-59), 6 M., 9330.

SAMYPDACEAE

- **Casearia glomerata* Roxb.
Kimios, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower and fruit
(27-3-59), 5 M., 9332.

RUBIACEAE

- **Dentella repens* (L.) Forst.
Sawai, Car Nicobar, common, in flower and
fruit (31-3-59), 6 M., 9354. Fruit is clothed with
glandular hairs.
Ixora brunnescens Kurz.
Mus-jetty, Car Nicobar, common and abundant, in
flower and fruit (28-3-59), 6 M., 9340. A littoral
shrubby tree with spreading branches upto 8 M.
**Oldenlandia nitida* Gamble
Near air-strip, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
(24-3-59), 3 M., 9313.
**O. paniculata* L.
Mus, Car Nicobar, common, in flower and fruit
(25-3-59), 3 M., 9322.
Ophiorrhiza mungos L.
Tiltop near Sawai, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
and fruit (26-3-59), 5 M., 9330.
Timonius jambosella Thwaites Syn. *Polyphragma*
flavescens Kurz
Between Kakana and Kimios, Car Nicobar, com-
mon and abundant, in flower and fruit (27-3-59),
2 M., 9334. A big shrub upto 6 M., growing in
mangrove creek.
Webera kurzii Hook. f.
Kakana, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (27-3-59),
4 M., 9336. Henkot, Nancoury, common, in flower
(2-4-59) 12 M., 9363.

MYRSINEAE

- Ardisia solanacea* (Poir.) Roxb. Syn. *A. humilis* Vahl.
Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower and fruit
(23-3-59), 2 M., 9306.

SAPOTACEAE

- Planchonella obovata* (R. Br.) Pierre Syn. *Sidero-
xylon ferrugineum* Hook & Arn.
Hithuoui, Nancoury, common, in flower (2-4-59),
3 M., 9369. A spreading littoral tree upto 10 M.,
with drooping branches.

OLEACEAE

- †*Jasminum* sp.
Malacca, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower and fruit
(30-3-59), 3 M., 9345.

ASCLEPIADACEAE

- Dischidia benghalensis* Coleb.
Hithuoui, Nancoury, common, in flower (2-4-59),
2 M., 9357. An epiphyte hanging from the branches
of trees.
**Dregea volubilis* (L. f.) Benth. ex Hook. f.
Syn. *Marsdenia volubilis* (L. f.) Cooke.
Mus-jetty, Car Nicobar, not common, in flower
(28-3-59) 8 M., 9342.
**Tylophora indica* (Burm.f.), Merr. Syn. *T. asthmatica*
Wight & Arn.
Kimios, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (27-3-59),
5 M., 9333.

CONVOLVULACEAE

- Erycibe paniculata* Roxb.
Hithuoui, Nancoury, rare, in flower and fruit
(2-4-59), 3 M., 9361.

SOLANACEAE

- **Physalis minima* L.
Near air-strip, Car Nicobar, common, in flower and
fruit (24-3-59), 3 M., 9315.

VERBENACEAE

- Callicarpa longifolia* Lam.
Artican, Sawai, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
(31-3-59), 5 M., 9352.
Clerodendrum inerme Gaertn.
Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (24-3-59),
2 M., 9319.
Premna serratifolia L. Syn. *P. integrifolia* L.
Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (23-3-59),
2 M., 9305.

LABIATAE

- Hyptis suaveolens* Poit.
Lapati, Car Nicobar, not common, in flower
(7-3-59), 8 M., 9372.

NYCTAGINACEAE

- Boerhaavia diffusa* L.
Air-strip, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (30-3-59),
3 M., 9346.

AMARANTHACEAE

- Aerva lanata* Juss.
Pasa-bridge, Car Nicobar, common, in flower
(26-3-59), 3 M., 9326.

* Plants of new distribution.
† Plants under further studies.

HERNANDIACEAE

Hernandia peltata Meissn.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (31-3-59), 3 M., 9355. Fruit, a dark coloured drupe is found inside a greenish white globular receptacle with a circular opening at the top.

LORANTHACEAE

**Loranthus globosus* Roxb. var. *andamanicus* King. Malacca, Car Nicobar, rare, in flower (30-3-59), 3 M., 9347.

EUPHORBIACEAE

**Acalypha indica* L.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (31-3-59), 2 M., 9356.

**Antidesma diandrum* Roth.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (female) (30-3-59), 4 M., 9350.

Alchornea javensis Muell.-Arg.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common and abundant under the shade of coconut-palms, in flower (Male), in flower and fruit (Female) (23-3-59), 2 M., 9307 (Female), 9308 (Male). Locally known as 'Tam-fathu'; a medicinal plant used by Nicobarese for children's diseases. A native of Philippines.

**Claoxylon indicum* Hassk.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (30-3-59), 3 M., 9348; Hithuoui, Nancoury, not common, in flower (female) (2-4-59), 3 M., 9370.

Excoecaria agallocha L.

Hithuoui, Nancoury, common, in flower (2-4-59), 3 M., 9368. A littoral shrubby tree with milky latex.

Gelonium bifarium Roxb.

Mus-jetty, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (28-3-59), 6 M., 9339. Flowers have good smell.

Glochidion calocarpum Kurz

Thumbat, Car Nicobar, common and abundant, in flower and fruit (24-3-59), 5 M., 9317. Seeds are beautiful scarlet in colour.

Securinega virosa (Roxb. ex Willd.) Pax. & Hoffm. Syn. *Fluggea microcarpa* Blume

Lapti, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (26-3-59), 8 M., 9325, 9373.

ULMACEAE

**Trema amboinensis* Blume

Henkot, Nancoury, not common, in flower (2-4-59), 17 M., 9362.

MORACEAE

Ficus rumphii Blume

Mus-jetty, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (28-3-59), 6 M., 9338. A littoral tree attaining 10 to 15 M. height.

†*Ficus* sp.

Malacca, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (23-3-59), 3 M., 9312. Green hypanthodia and yellow syconia.

* Plants of new distribution.

† Plants under further studies.

MONOCOTYLEDONS

ORCHIDACEAE

**Aerides radicosum* A. Rich.

Bada-Lapati, Car Nicobar, not common, in flower (26-3-59), 20 M., 9324. An epiphytic orchid with velamen roots and beautiful pink flowers.

Dendrobium anceps Sw.

Pasa-bridge, Car Nicobar, not common, in flower (5-3-59), 8 M., 9371. An epiphytic orchid with yellowish white flowers.

Luisia teretifolia Gaud.

Chong-pi, Nancoury, common, in flower (2-4-59), 3 M., 9358. An epiphytic orchid with cylindrical leaves.

CYPERACEAE

**Scleria cochinchinensis* Druce. Syn. *S. elata* Thwaites

Pasa-bridge, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (31-3-59), 6 M., 9351.

GRAMINEAE

Chrysopogon aciculatus Trin.

Mus, Car Nicobar, common, in flower (25-3-59), 5 M., 9323.

Imperata cylindrica Beauv. Syn. *I. arundinacea* Cyrill.

Mus, Car Nicobar, common and abundant, in flower (28-3-59), 8 M., 9341. Locally known as 'Lalang' grass. Leaves are used by Nicobarese for thatching their huts.

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